



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Freedom of Information Team
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ
E: foi@dcms.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/dcms

4 November 2020

M Kelly
request-700229-0cb7f77a@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: FOI2020/22233

Dear M Kelly,

Thank you for your email of 18 October in which you made the following request for information:

“England RFU released a transgender player policy on 20th May 2019. Could you provide me with copies of all information, including but not limited to correspondence, notes of telephone calls and emails held by DCMS related to the creation of this policy, and the evidence published in support of the policy, including any information held relating to :-

- Discussions or planned discussions with Rugby RFU about the 2019 policy***
- Consultations with players and groups, promoting the encouragement and support of a) female players and b) transgender players in sport.***
- Consultations with medical professionals, scientists, etc, regarding the impact of allowing a) transgender women to take part in women’s competitions and b) transgender men to take part in men’s competitions. Reference to studies considered as part of the consultations should be detailed, along with any other evidence considered as part of the decision-making process.***
- Any assessment carried out of the implications of the 2019 transgender policy for gender-affected sporting activities as defined in s195 of the Equality Act 2010 and the consideration given to potentially excluding transgender women from the women’s competitions and transgender men from the men’s competitions on the grounds of both fair competition and the safety of competitors. This may include, but is not limited to, impact/risk assessments, the possibility of members self-excluding or not entering the sport as a result of the perceived risks associated with mixed-sex contact training and games as well as mixed-sex use of shared changing areas and facilities.***
- All relevant documentation regarding the process of communicating the 2019 transgender policy to all employees, rugby-playing member clubs and volunteers working within rugby.”***

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). I can confirm that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) does not hold any information in scope of your request. You may wish to contact Sport England who may hold information in scope of your request. They can be contacted via foi@sportengland.org. You may also wish to contact UK Sport via info@uksport.gov.uk with this request.



It may be also be helpful to contact the RFU directly with your queries although, as they do not constitute a Public Authority under the Act, they are not subject to the provisions of the Act.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Complaints and comments

As is customary in our replies, I should explain that if you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our response to your request for information, and/or wish to appeal against information being withheld from you, please send full details within two calendar months of the date of this response to: foi@dcms.gov.uk. You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning an investigation.